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Operation Desert Scorpion Edition

THE LIBERATOR

June 25, 2003
Issue 3, Vol. 1

FOCUS ON FALLUJAH:

Training Fallujah's police

LPG distribution

Engineers clear UXOs

Delivering hospital supplies

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On the cover: Staff Sgt. Capaz, 1-64 Armor Battalion, leads his squad on a patrol through a market in Fallujah.

Photo by Spc. Derek Gaines

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OPERATION DESERT SCORPION

Spartan raids yield humanitarian efforts

SPC. MASON T. LOWERY
50th PAD

AL FALLUJAH, Iraq – Soldiers from four Spartan task forces and support elements conducted offensive operations as part of Operation Spartan Scorpion in the pre-dawn hours June 15 in and around Fallujah.

Spartan Scorpion was 2nd Brigade Combat Team's part in nationwide raids designed to remove all remaining Ba'ath Party, non-compliant forces and paramilitary forces throughout Iraq.

It was the culmination of 2nd BCT's military and humanitarian work since arriving in Fallujah two weeks ago, according to 2nd BCT Battle Captain Matt Morgan.

"Spartan Scorpion isn't only focused on conventional military operations. The most important thing we did were the civil-military projects we conducted to continue to establish rapport with the locals," he said.

Humanitarian aid started before the raids in Fallujah. The two elements are "a combination of providing the people of Fallujah with the benefits of us being here, so they can see us as more than just security forces," said 2nd BCT Operations Officer Maj. Rick Nussio.

The ongoing humanitarian assistance in Fallujah consists of repairing area hospitals and clinics, and delivering medical supplies to those hospitals and clinics. They also repaired schools and delivered supplies to the schools, repaired soccer fields and gave away hundreds of soccer balls (soccer is Iraq's number one sport).

Thousands of gallons of gas were given to locals in the area, while other soldiers participated in cleaning up trash in the city.

The key to success in Fallujah is to win the hearts and minds of the populace, according to 2nd BCT Commander Col. David G. Perkins.

According to Nussio, "The idea (of Spartan Scorpion) was to execute attacks against selected

Phase two was the early-morning raids. There were four objectives in and around the city. Soldiers from B Company, 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry, closed in on a suspected Fedayeen training facility, while A Co. soldiers raided a possible Fedayeen headquarters building. Task Force Enforcer, made up of the 211th Military Police Battalion descended on a safe house believed to house three resistance leaders. Soldiers from 1-9 FA probed a possible weapons cache.

The third phase was the continuing humanitarian aid. Many aid projects were scheduled to finish the morning after the raids, to signify Spartan soldiers' commitment to not only conducting military operations, but also showing Fallujah residents they are in there to help them, explained Morgan.

"Spartan Scorpion was a decisive point for us turning the tide in this town. We set the conditions for a week prior, talking to the mayor and Sheiks, listening to them and finding out what they need," Morgan said of the progress Spartans are making in Fallujah. Nussio said the mayor of Fallujah made positive comments about the raids.

He said the timing of the raids helped by not disrupting daily life in Fallujah. He was also happy that weapons and anti-coalition forces were off the street.

Morgan said, "The mayor's clearly on our team. He's working with us and we're working with him."



Spc. Mason T. Lowery

As seen through a night vision device, Spartan soldiers wait outside a building being raided during the pre-dawn hours of June 15.

targets while minimizing damage to locals."

Soldiers captured nine suspects, explosive devices, bomb-making material and documents during the early-morning raids. No soldiers, civilians or suspects suffered casualties, Nussio said.

The early-morning raids made it possible to capture the suspects and weapons without disrupting civilians' daily lives, according to Nussio.

The Spartan Scorpion raids were executed in three phases. Phase one consisted of three days of preparation and reconnaissance gathered from patrols and civilian tips.

First Battalion, 9th Field Artillery based their raid objective on where they were shot at the most, according to Morgan.

OPERATION DESERT SCORPION

TF Enforcer strikes in Habbinyah

Numerous weapons, ammunition found during raids

SGT. CRAIG ZENTKOVICH
50th PAD

AL FALLUJAH, Iraq – Soldiers of Task Force Enforcer took steps once again to rid the Fallujah area of organized, anti-coalition resistance by conducting raids on six different homes June 16.

The task force consisted of teams from 211th Military Police Battalion, 155th Military Police Company and 1st Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment with a platoon from A Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment attached.

Scouts from 1st Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, were conducting presence patrols through the streets of Habbinyah, a town northwest of Fallujah, early Monday morning when they received fire from eight Iraqi militants, according to Lt. Col. John A. Hammond, 211th Military Police Battalion and TF Enforcer commander.

“We received intelligence on the two houses where the firing had originated,” he said. “At approximately 6 a.m. (TF Enforcer) conducted simultaneous raids on the two residences.”

Ammunition was found buried in the yards of both houses. Ammunition crates were found in the first home while a stick of C-4 explosive was found in the second.

“I could tell the father of the young man (in the second home) was visibly upset and had no knowledge of his son’s activities,” Hammond said. “Even after we apprehended the son, his father continued to verbally lynch him.”

By using 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment’s air reconnaissance assets, Kiowa Warriors found multiple targets – ammunition crates in the yards and on the roofs of area houses.

Under the guidance and direction of the aircraft, the soldiers entered another home.

“We found 30-40 (ammunition) crates at the property,” he said. “Five of them were loaded with explosive material.”

Simultaneously, 70 Iraqi tank heat rounds were seized from another home. Five of the stolen rounds had been disassembled, with

the explosive removed.

The next home searched proved an interesting affair, according to Hammond.

“We went into the home to search the containers that were observed from the sky,” he said. “A teenage boy living there fled the scene and was quickly apprehended.”

An ammunition crate found on the roof of the house contained propellant material, a folding stock AK-47 rifle, a flare gun and an RPG site, as well as a camouflage jacket, sleeping bag, ninja knife and Bruce Lee poster.

“I think the boy was a little confused,” Hammond said.

The raid on the final home didn’t immediately produce any contraband.

“When we entered the house, the owner kept telling us he had nothing and that the house was clean,” Hammond said. “Not a minute after we began questioning him, a soldier came into the house with high explosive materials and blasting caps. Apparently, as we entered the house, he tossed these items over the wall in his yard.”

Hammond adds, with a smile, “They landed right in front of a soldier securing the area.”

Overall, nine men were apprehended dur-



Spc. Edwin M. Bridges

Soldiers of 812th Military Police Company clear a building during a raid on a market in downtown Baghdad. The MPs are searching for illegal weapons and other black market items, such as stolen medicines.

ing Monday morning raids.

“These raids allow us to take the initiative away from the enemy,” Hammond said. “We choose the times we engage now.”

Soldiers and staff alike feel the raids were successful, as well as helpful in the continual process of building trust and confidence between 2nd BCT forces and area residents.

“We’ve seen very positive results in the past two weeks,” said Capt. Matt Morgan, 2nd BCT battle captain. “We have a good rapport with the mayor of Fallujah, and the citizens are responding well to our security presence in the area as well as community and area improvement programs.”

OPERATION DESERT SCORPION

Reservist helps train Fallujah police

SPC. KATHERINE ROBINSON
50th PAD

AL FALLUJAH, Iraq – A safe and secure environment – it may seem like a lofty goal, but not unattainable.

With the help of 3rd Military Police Company and other elements of 2nd Brigade Combat Team, the Fallujah police force is working to make itself stronger and more capable.

Staff Sgt. Sean Sullivan, a team sergeant with B Company, 411th Civil Affairs Battalion, teaches classes at the Fallujah police station every morning.

When he's not activated, Sullivan works as a police instructor in Springfield, Mass., so the training comes easily to him.

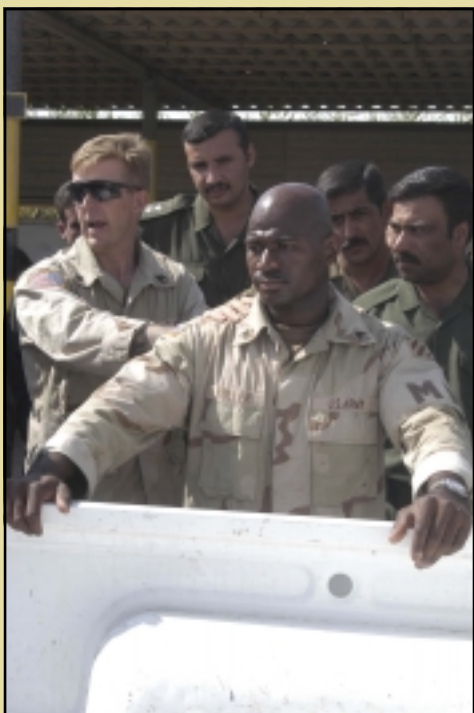
What's not as easy is teaching people who don't speak the same language, and who have had little or no training in their fields.

The classes are very basic, Sullivan said. He's done classes on control and compliance techniques, handcuffing, takedown and traffic stops among other things – simple hands-on techniques that don't require much equip-



Photos by Spc. Katherine Robinson

Staff Sgt. Sean Sullivan, B Co., 411th CA Bn., who works as a police instructor in Springfield, Mass., talks to Iraqi policemen about staying safe during traffic stops June 16. Sullivan gives classes on the basics of police work to members of the Iraqi police force every morning.



Sgt. Ronald Fuller, with 3rd Military Police Company, portrays a driver during a traffic stop, while Staff Sgt. Sean Sullivan, B Co., 411th CA Bn., demonstrates how to approach him.

ment.

"Some of these guys have never even laid eyes on a pair of handcuffs," Sullivan said. "So we're trying to take baby steps. (The training is) something they can watch and learn quickly."

Most days Sullivan starts off the class by asking police officers to show him how they would conduct themselves in certain situations, then he shows them how he would do it differently.

With the help of a translator, Fallujah Police 1st Lt. Saad Abdalkareed, Sullivan is able to explain why he does things the way he does, and how they promote safety.

Sullivan said he hopes the extra training will help the Fallujah police be more proactive as they patrol the streets, both with 3rd MP Co. soldiers and by themselves.

"It gives them a little more confidence ... hopefully they might be eager to get out there and use some of these techniques and make this city a little safer," he said.

While some of the police officers in the class seem indifferent, some are eager to learn.

"This is the first time for us to see what we can do in many cases – can we make a

search or can we stop a car?" Abdalkareed explained.

"It's good for us because we learn what to do in the future against thieves, killers and all bad people," he added.

Abdalkareed said the Fallujah police need help from the American soldiers, who have more experience, training and equipment.

"We need guns, we need cars, we need radios," he said.

"The situation is sort of hard for us because we have more thieves and killers on the streets ... but the American forces try to help us do our jobs.

"Maybe in the future, when we can do our jobs in a good manner, we won't need them anymore."

This is a goal he shares with U.S. soldiers. "The ultimate goal is for them to police themselves," said Master Sgt. David James, a 3rd Infantry Division (Mech.) provost marshal operations sergeant.

"I think they know it's important to have a strong police force in Fallujah," Sullivan said. He said he has seen good changes in the Fallujah police force since 2nd BCT arrived, and hopes to see more over time.

OPERATION DESERT SCORPION

1-9 FA provides security for propane distribution

SGT. CRAIG ZENTKOVICH
50th PAD

AL FALLUJAH, Iraq – Everyday eight million liters of benzene is imported into Iraq from Turkey, Jordan and Kuwait. Additionally, liquid propane gas is also imported and distributed throughout Iraq.

Iraqis depend on LPG to cook so the gas is very much in demand, but it is in short supply. The reason for the shortage is a suspected act of sabotage in Basrah, which left the country 1,200 tons short.

Another reason is a break and subsequent fire at the refinery in Baji. So to compensate for the fuel shortage, trucks are bringing in an additional 20 tons of LPG.

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery, began providing security this week for propane distribution in Kahndari, 15 miles east of Fallujah.

The mission is just one of many humanitarian efforts in the Fallujah area conducted by elements of 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division (Mech.)

The primary reason for the security presence is to maintain order at the distribution site.

“The situation (Monday) was a little chaotic when we first arrived,” said Staff Sgt. Juan Cardona, C Battery, 1-9 FA gunnery sergeant. “Once we set the ground rules, everything was under control.”

There is a national distribution system in place in Baghdad. The Minister of Oil determines the distribution plan for fuel throughout the country since he knows where fuel is needed.

This is an effort by the coalition to ensure Iraqis get used to managing their lives.

The platoon-sized element works in conjunction with the Ministry of Oil merchants and interpreter on site.

Though the wait for the maximum two-tank purchase could be up to three hours, it’s a much more appealing option than what some locals have resorted to.

“On the black market, people are paying upward of \$3,000 dinar for a tank of propane. The merchants here are offering a tank for \$250 dinar,” said Capt. Matthew C. Payne, C Battery, 1-9 FA commander.

It is Iraqi dependency on the fuel for cooking that puts it in such high demand.

Residents are limited to two bottles of LPG. Each bottle holds 12 kilograms of LPG, but since the demand is so high, bottles are filled with 10 kilograms to maximize the fuel supply.

“In America, many homes have the luxury and option of gas or electric,” Payne said. “We just want to help them obtain the necessities and get their home life back to normal.”

As of Tuesday, feedback from local residents was positive.

“They’re just happy that this (site) is back in operation,” he said. “The town council has personally thanked me for our presence here.”

The interaction between 2nd BCT soldiers and the local populace through presence patrols, security missions, area improvements and supply distribution has significantly strengthened relations between U.S. troops and Iraqi citizens, according to Cardona.

“We’ve been able to meet many of the local people, address their concerns and, in many cases, help them in some way,” he said.

Both soldiers agree the situation in the brigade’s area of operation



Spc. Adam Nuelken

An Iraqi boy carries two empty gas cans to exchange while soldiers with C Battery, Task Force 1-9 Field Artillery pass out numbers to people waiting in line.

has improved substantially.

“You’re still going to have some lawlessness wherever you go,” Cardona said. “But the situation here is, without a doubt, much better than it was two weeks ago.”

“Ultimately, we want the people to be able to fully operate this site,” Payne said. “It will be a good day for both soldiers and locals when we no longer have to intervene in their daily lives.”

As the campaign to change the hearts and minds of Iraqis continues, so will the patrols, security missions and supply distribution in the 1-9 FA sector of central Iraq.

OPERATION DESERT SCORPION

Rogues, Kings deliver supplies to hospital

SPC. MASON T. LOWERY
50th PAD

AL FALLUJAH, Iraq – Spartan ‘Desert Rogues’ and ‘Battle King’ soldiers delivered 10 tons of medical supplies donated by the Ministry of Health to the Al Fallujah Hospital June 17.

The supply delivery helped improve the Army and Iraqi relationship, according to Orthopedic Surgeon Dr. Rashid Assamarajee.

“Definitely it will help. I hope we will one day see Americans come in civilian clothes and work in better conditions. We want to work together,” he said.

The hospital was low on supplies. Soldiers brought a refrigerator for blood storage and an X-ray machine, as well as other supplies on two heavy equipment tractor-trailers, one SUV and one humvee.

The hospital is in 1st Battalion, 64th Armor soldiers’ patrol route. They assessed the hospital’s need for supplies and maintenance the week before.

They were originally scheduled to deliver the supplies Monday, but workers at the Ministry of Health went on strike and the delivery was postponed. So they brought a company from 890th Engineer Battalion to assess the hospital’s plumbing, electrical and air conditioning situation to show they were still committed to helping.

The medical supply situation worked out



Spc. Mason T. Lowery

Pfc. Jonathan Jankowski, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1-64, hands a hospital employee supplies June 17.

faster than soldiers thought it would, and they were happy to be able to make the delivery as promised.

“It was great. Instead of pushing things back, we were able to beat their expectations and help them get a lot of equipment they

weren’t able to get on their own,” said 1st Lt. Christian Nelson, medic platoon leader with Headquarters and Headquarters Company.

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery helped with the delivery so they could learn how to coordinate with the Ministry of Health to get supplies to clinics in their area. The clinics they help are private and don’t fall under the same rules as public clinics, according to a 1-9 FA officer who wished to remain anonymous because he is preparing to join Special Forces.

His soldiers felt good about helping the Hospital. Private 2 Anthony Mondello, Service Battery, 1-9 FA, enjoyed the instant results of unloading the supplies and giving them directly to hospital workers.

“It helps the days go by faster – seeing people smile,” he said.

Hospital workers and their children helped unload the supplies. The mood was light as they mingled with the soldiers. They laughed and joked in broken English and Arabic, making progress in the Army and Iraqi relationship.

“We appreciate all this effort. I hope it will create a good environment,” Assamarajee said.

The progress of the medical supply delivery should continue as long as Spartan soldiers are here. “We’ll be coming back with carpenters, plumbers and engineers in the next few days,” Nelson said.

411th soldiers apprehend suspected car thief

SPC. RYAN SMITH
372nd MPAD

Members of the 411th Civil Affairs Battalion, an Army Reserve unit from Danbury, Conn., apprehended a suspected carjacker in Baghdad June 11.

While five soldiers from Tactical Support Team 4, 411th CA Bn., were en route to the battalion headquarters to deliver the unit’s mail, a crowd of shouting Iraqi citizens informed the soldiers that a carjacking was taking place nearby.

“There were about a dozen Iraqis shouting ‘Ali Baba,’” said Maj. Joseph Charles Sasso, commander, Tactical Support Team 4. “They saw military forces and alerted us that a carjacking had taken place, and that there were armed men in the vehicle.”

On seeing the American soldiers in pursuit, the two men in the suspect vehicle, a blue Kia minivan with commercial taxi license plates, drove away, Sasso said. The suspects turned the corner, and then

jumped out of the vehicle.

The soldiers pursued the suspects on foot and apprehended the driver. The other man escaped.

“We ran about a block and captured and secured the prisoner,” said Sgt. Lou Poma, a civil affairs specialist with 411th CA Bn., and a police officer with the Hartford, Conn., police department.

Upon searching the vehicle, the soldiers discovered a Kalashnikov AK-47 rifle and an Iraqi Baretta 9 mm pistol, both weapons loaded and ready to be fired, Sasso said.

After searching the vehicle, soldiers brought the prisoner and the vehicle to the 19th Military Police Brigade, who processed the detainee and turned him over to Iraqi civil authorities, according to Sasso.

Though the team’s primary mission is to assist the rebuilding of infrastructure in their area of operations in east Baghdad, they also focus on security and public safety, said Sasso.

“We have an obligation to act upon any threat to law and order,” he said.

OPERATION DESERT SCORPION

Engineers clear UXOs from Fallujah area

SPC. KATHERINE ROBINSON
50th PAD

AL FALLUJAH, Iraq – Rocket-propelled grenades, missiles and mortars; these are only some of the types of weapons and unexploded ordnance lying in and around Fallujah.

The 10th Engineer Battalion, with help from the 890th Engineer Battalion, a National Guard unit from Picayune, Miss., spend their days collecting and destroying dangerous ordnance for the safety of both soldiers and civilians.

Soldiers from A Company, 10th Eng. Bn., collect some of the weapons and UXOs for redistribution later, and destroy others depending on the type.

On a June 17 mission, A Co. soldiers started the day by picking up mortars out of a swamp, with a crowd of children gathered around to watch and offer help, then loaded heavy equipment tractor-trailers with surface-to-air missiles.

There were about 30 missiles in the cache they found near Fallujah, all different sizes and ranges. "Our company has the mission of collecting UXO in the (2nd Brigade Combat Team) sector,"

said 1st Lt. Thomas Booth, A Co.'s 1st platoon leader. "The majority of things we're finding are anti-aircraft rounds, surface-to-air missiles and tank rounds."

According to Sgt. Michael Mitchell, an A Co. squad leader, cleaning up UXO protects civilians and soldiers from danger.

"We don't want kids playing with this stuff, we don't want people driving over it, and we also don't want the wrong people to get hold of it and use it to kill American soldiers," he said.

"A lot of these (ordnance) are fully mission capable and can be used."

While the soldiers are out, they often get to interact with local civilians and children, who, many times, show them where to find small UXOs.

"It makes you feel better about what you're doing," Mitchell said. "It's a good thing when they want to participate and help get rid of these

things." Whether they're picking UXOs up by hand or blowing them up at demolition sites, the engineers remain vigilante in their mission to make the city safe.



Spc. Katherine Robinson

Trying to help, an Iraqi child hands two mortar rounds to Sgt. Michael Mitchell, A Co., 10th Eng. Bn. June 17 near Fallujah. "The mortars weren't dangerous at all," Mitchell said. "None of them were fused."

Civil Affairs unit provides humanitarian aid

SPC. RYAN SMITH
372nd MPAD

Countless citizens of Iraq's capital are forced to endure the intense heat with little or no water or electricity, but the U.S. Army's civil affairs units continue to provide assistance anywhere they can.

Soldiers from the 411th Civil Affairs Battalion, an Army Reserve unit from Danbury, Conn., recently delivered approximately 1,000 meals to displaced families living in the former Al-Rashid military complex, according to Sgt. David Glass, a civil affairs specialist from the 411th.

Some Iraqi families have been displaced because of economic reasons, while others have been forced to flee their homes because

of the war, Glass said.

The civil affairs soldiers delivered humanitarian rations to several locations where these families are staying, places where pools of raw sewage form in the streets, and piles of garbage collect where children run around barefoot.

Though delivering these meals is a relatively small contribution to a city with so many needy people, the civil affairs soldiers understand that for many, anything helps.

"If we can help them through one more day," Glass said, "then it will be worth it."

"I only wish there were more food to give out," he said.

"If I could do my whole tour giving out food, I would."



Spc. Ryan Smith

Sgt. Mike Howes played with Iraqi children while the unit delivered humanitarian rations to displaced families in Baghdad June 13.

OPERATION DESERT SCORPION

1-9 Field Artillery secures Fallujah

SPC. MASON T. LOWERY
50th PAD

AL FALLUJAH, Iraq – Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery visited three schools, two mosques and one potato and onion warehouse outside Fallujah on a routine patrol June 13.

The 20 kilometer patrol is 1st Platoon, B Battery soldiers' area of responsibility, and they've got it pretty much under control, according to 1st Platoon Leader 1st Lt. Parker Knight.

The route borders highways 1 and 10 outside Fallujah. It winds through small farming villages built beside canals. The area is lush, flowers and gardens abound, and water buffalos are not an uncommon sight.

The soldiers guard food warehouses, the Jordanian Hospital, two clinics and police stations. They mingle with the citizens, assess their needs and make their presence known.

"We let them know we're friendly, there to help and not hurt anybody," Knight said.

The Bravo Btry. soldiers go on six patrols a day in and around Fallujah. They visited three new schools Friday, which were closed, they recorded the location so they could come back with an interpreter the next day to do a more in depth assessment, explained Knight.

The 1-9 FA soldiers have help from 1st Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery soldiers. They provide soldiers and firepower at guard points along 1-9 FA soldiers' route. At one checkpoint, the onion and potato warehouse, Knight and his soldiers talked to the managers of the



Spc. Mason T. Lowery

1st Lt. Parker Knight talks with managers of a potato and onion warehouse to assess their needs.

facility and took a tour.

Two managers guided the 1-9 FA soldiers through their warehouses. They told them looters, armed with AK-47s and RPGs – the loyalists' weapons of choice, stole food and hospital supplies. The soldiers assured the managers their patrols and 1-3 ADA's guard points would deter looters from then on.

While visiting the third school, a crowd formed around the soldiers. Many Fallujah residents in the neighborhood were friendly. They were shy at first, keeping their women and children behind fences.

After about five minutes of interaction between the soldiers and men of the village,

mothers let their older children carry the babies out to look at the soldiers.

Communication was difficult without an interpreter, but the citizens expressed their concerns using hand gestures.

They pointed to power lines, indicating they needed more electricity, and soldiers did their best to assure them they were working on it.

The progress and importance of their mission in Fallujah wasn't lost on the soldiers. Spc. Joe McGovern, 1-9 FA's medic, said, "We're making sure the streets are secure and making sure everything's running. We're getting them back to the way they were."

4th Infantry Division seizes cash in raids

SGT. 1ST CLASS DOUG SAMPLE
American Forces Press Service

The 4th Infantry Division confiscated \$8.5 million U.S. dollars and between 300 and 400 million Iraqi dinar from two separate farmhouses during a June 18 raid, said Maj. Gen. Raymond T. Odierno, 4th Infantry Division commander.

The general announced this in a videoconference from Baghdad with Pentagon reporters. The raid nabbed thousands of English pounds and Euro, still being counted. Inside the farmhouses were photos and paraphernalia of the ousted leader Saddam Hussein.

"In addition, we received a large cache of jewels and gems estimated at over \$1 million; Russian-made night-vision goggles, sniper rifles, uniforms and equipment of Saddam's personal guards," Odierno said.

About 20 individuals associated with Saddam's security forces were detained in today's raid, including one of Saddam's personal bodyguards, he noted. He said one Iraqi was caught fleeing the scene with \$800 thousand U.S. dollars in the trunk of his vehicle.

Although there is still resistance from former loyalists of the Saddam regime in the cities of Kirkut, Basra, Tikrit, Samarra, among others, where more than 27,000 soldiers of the 4th Infantry Division now operate, the stabilization process has gone well, he said.

The two-star general said that in three provinces of northeastern and central Iraq, life is better for citizens. Workers are being paid; children are attending school - final exams will be held at the end of this month. In May in the city of Kirkut, the first democratic elections were held. He noted that people are going about their business.

It's the way the U.S. had hoped things would be, Odierno said.

OPERATION DESERT SCORPION

354th soldiers solve financial problem

SPC. RYAN SMITH
372nd MPAD

When the Baath Party first came into power in Iraq at the end of the 1960s, it was not yet the bloodthirsty organization as the world knows it today. It was simply a revolutionary party founded on nationalistic ideology.

Though the men who founded the party were eventually swept aside by Saddam Hussein, the new government of Iraq did not completely forget its origin; these men were paid a monthly pension.

About 400 of these men involved in the 17th of July Revolution in 1968, most now in their 70s and 80s, were paid their pensions until three months ago, said Capt. Jim Sosnicky, economics development officer, 354th Civil Affairs Brigade, an Army Reserve unit from Riverdale, Md.

As with many government institutions in Iraq, the banks were disrupted by the war.

The disruption caused these men to stop getting paid by the banks.

Although the government deposited the money for them, for some unknown reason the bank would not allow the group access to their accounts, Sosnicky said.

Laith Abdul al Wahab, whose father is one of the men owed the pension money, went to the U.S. Army for assistance in getting his father paid.

Al Wahab had gone to Rafadain Bank, the state-run bank where his father has his account, as well as the Iraqi Ministry of Finance, but never received a definite answer on the status of the money — whether or when it would become available, Sosnicky said.

After being given the runaround by the bank and Iraqi authorities, al Wahab went to the Economics and Commerce Team, 354th

not the bad guys,” Sosnicky said. The Treasury authorized the CA team to assist with this financial problem.

After days of efforts with speaking to bank representatives on the telephone, Sosnicky decided that he would personally go to the bank's headquarters in Baghdad to get a definitive answer about the money.

The team arrived at the bank with al Wahab June 16, and Sosnicky asked to speak with the head of the bank, but was told that he was not available that day. Instead, he was directed to the bank's deputy chief, where he, al Wahab, and Lt. Col. Steve Jabero, a civil affairs officer and interpreter with the 354th CA Bde., met to discuss the issue.

The bank's deputy chief assured the men that he would make a phone call and the group would receive its money, but, to be sure that there would be no problems at the branch where al Wahab's father has his account, Sosnicky requested a letter with the bank deputy's signature and a representative from the main office to accompany the team.

The team went to the branch with the representative, spoke to the bank's management, and al Wahab was told that the money would be available the

next day.

The bank manager gave her word that the funds would be available. “I told her, ‘Should there be any problems, we will be back,’” Sosnicky said.



Spc. Ryan Smith

Capt. Jim Sosnicky, economics development officer, Lt. Col. Steve Jabero, civil affairs officer, 354th Civil Affairs Brigade, and Laith Abdul Al Wahab, speak with the deputy chief of Rafadain Bank in Baghdad June 16.

CA Bde.

The team began by working with the U.S. Treasury toward a resolution, Sosnicky said. The Treasury investigated al Wahab's claim, and confirmed its legitimacy. “These men are



On guard...

Soldiers hold back a huge crowd outside city hall after an attack by former Iraqi military members, which almost breached the building during a violent protest in Mosul, Iraq. The Iraqi protestors were mostly demanding back pay for their military service.

Sgt. Michael Bracken

OPERATION DESERT SCORPION

TF 2-70 projects secure environment

SPC. SHAUNA J. McROBERTS
1AD PAO

Barefoot children sell warm sodas on the sides of filthy streets. Men and women sit behind deteriorating wooden stalls and offer fruit covered in flies. Cars creep along, stuck in traffic lining the streets.

In a crowded Baghdad marketplace, this is another day in the life of the Iraqi people, trying to survive under the scorching afternoon sun.

For the soldiers of 1st Armored Division's 2nd Battalion, 70th Armored Regiment, the marketplace is just another place they are trying to protect. With most of Baghdad's population out of work and struggling to survive after the fall of Saddam's regime, crime is one of the

biggest problems Iraqis and Americans face, according to Lt. Col. Jeff Ingram, Task Force 2-70 commander.

"Every single man I have is standing guard or on a patrol, including cooks and mechanics," Ingram said. "Everybody wants security and most of the crime is Iraqi on Iraqi."

Although American soldiers are focused on security, Ingram expects the local police to stand up as well. He also said jobs for every Iraqi is key to keeping the streets safe.

An Iraqi woman sits with a young girl behind one of the stalls in the marketplace.

"If every Iraqi was employed, the crime level would drop dramatically," he said. Ingram and his task force of approximately 750 soldiers are in charge of five



Photos by Spc. Shauna J. McRoberts

A Task Force 2-70 soldier directs traffic as he sits atop a Humvee. Controlling traffic is part of the task force's security mission.

zones in Baghdad. In addition to providing security, they are also working with the local town counsels of Abu Gharyib to improve Iraqi living conditions.

The Iraqi's most common complaints include not having electricity, limited water, limited trash pick-up, no money and no jobs. Additionally, all the schools are in disarray.

"The Iraqis expected a lot from the U.S. — we're the heroes for the rest of the world," Ingram said. "The Iraqi people thought that within days of the fall of Saddam, things would be back to normal. They get more frustrated as the days go by."

Iraqis and Americans have begun working together on projects that include cleaning up the streets and building new market stalls.

"The key to success is American visibility," Ingram said. "We want the Iraqis to see the soldiers out there talking to people, trying to make things better. This is proof that we care. Iraqis just want to see things get back to normal, but they have to realize this is a marathon, not a sprint."

Mayor takes to streets, helps hunt for attackers

SPECIAL TO THE LIBERATOR

Fallujah, Iraq — As near-daily attacks continue against U-S forces, one Iraqi mayor is joining American troops in the hunt for militant groups.

The head of the town of Fallujah spent last night on patrol with American troops, something one Army commander calls leading by example.

The Army commander says it's a sign that residents of Fallujah want to take their streets back from Saddam Hussein loyalists and other opposition forces.

The mayor knows about the attacks first-hand — earlier this week, gunmen fired into his office as well as at other Iraqi centers associated with U-S forces.

Fallujah has been known as an opposition center since American troops first entered Iraq.



An Iraqi woman sits with a young girl behind one of the stalls in the marketplace.



DOD photo

Soldiers with 2nd Battalion, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, conduct a dismounted patrol in a secured area of Baghdad during Operation Desert Scorpion.

OPERATION DESERT SCORPION

CA team assesses reconstruction

SPC. RYAN SMITH
372nd MPAD

Operation Iraqi Freedom has succeeded in deposing Saddam Hussein, but there's more work to do before the mission can be considered a success. Winning the hearts and minds of the Iraqi people requires action with positive results.

The 411th Civil Affairs Battalion, an Army Reserve unit from Danbury, Conn., is working to provide those positive results. The unit's Tactical Support Team 4 focuses on operations involving reconstruction and public safety — missions that greatly legitimize the American presence in Baghdad, according to the commander of the team, Maj. Joseph Charles Sasso.

"(Rebuilding) infrastructure and police and fire are the keys to success," he said.

That's why the unit continually assesses and monitors reconstruction projects here.

During routine missions, the soldiers go to sites where construction is taking place, such as in Al Thawra, the neighborhood formerly known as Saddam City, Sasso said.

Thawra is home to nearly two million people, and is the poorest community in Baghdad, he said. The infrastructure of Thawra — the power lines, sewage pipes,



Photos by Spc. Ryan Smith

Maj. Joseph Charles Sasso, civil affairs officer, 411th Civil Affairs Battalion, speaks with Baghdad residents about reconstruction in their neighborhood June 11.

water lines and roads — is in bad shape. Either because of poor workmanship or neglect during Saddam's regime, the infrastructure is in poor condition.

Working with local contractors, the 411th

CA Bn. is trying to turn Thawra around.

In one project to restore pipelines in Thawra, in an area where raw sewage forms pools in the streets where children play, the unit has made a deal with a local general contractor, Kasim Taher Naser, to replace the worn-out pipes that exist in the area.

The contractor has promised to replace the lines according to the quality of American engineering standards. Sasso and his team regularly check on these projects to ensure that the work is moving along smoothly.

While assessing the progress of the project, and performing a quality-control check, the unit addressed other issues that citizens have.

Working with an interpreter, Sasso spoke to people with concerns ranging from looters to water and electricity shortages.

"We serve as a nucleus for people to grieve or look to for resolution," Sasso said.

The problems Iraq faces now are the residual effect of years of oppression and war. "Every month we make significant strides. We need to focus our energies on the important few, and put aside the trivial many," he said. "When people have clean water to drink, gas and electricity, and can feel secure out in the streets, then we can worry about luxuries."



Contractors work on reconstruction of sewer lines June 11. The contractor has promised to replace the lines according to the quality of American engineering standards.

USA Express, USO tours entertain troops

Sgt. Akilah C. Clarke



Spc. Jacob Boyer



Sgt. Akilah C. Clarke

Top left, Spc. Sabrina Bradford, Sgt. Cashina Smith and Spc. Hope Griffin perform Jill Scott's "Is It the Way," during the USA Express show held June 16 and 18 at Baghdad International Airport. Top right, Kidd Rock strums along to the song "Kidd Rock for President," during the United Services Organization tour June 19. Above, members of 1st Armored Division's band warm the crowd up with "Sweet Home Alabama" before the celebrity show began. Left, the rap group Nappy Roots performs amidst a gaggle of military and civilian media. Far right, Shelly Wright, Rebecca Romnjin-Stamos and Leeann Tweeden get the crowd pumped up. Below, Pfc. Christine Speights is serenaded by Spc. Efrain Garcia during the USA Express show.



Sgt. Akilah C. Clarke



Sgt. Akilah C. Clarke



Spc. Jacob Boyer

GLOBAL NEWS

Captured aide says Saddam, sons alive

CHARLES ALDINGER

Reuters

WASHINGTON – The most important Iraqi captured by U.S. troops yet has told his interrogators former President Saddam Hussein is alive along with his two sons, who fled to Syria after the fall of Baghdad and later returned to Iraq, U.S. officials said on Saturday.

The officials, who asked not to be identified, said an intense hunt was under way in Iraq for Saddam and the sons, Uday and Qusay, but that intelligence agencies were not sure if Saddam's captured former secretary was telling the truth.

"If it was specific, we would have them," one U.S. official told Reuters of the information provided by Abid Hamid Mahmud al-Tikriti, captured earlier this week in Iraq. "We are looking very hard" for Saddam and the sons, said another official.

The officials confirmed reports in The New York Times and The Washington Post Saddam and his sons were apparently alive and that the captive told his interrogators he himself and the sons at one point fled to Syria and then reentered Iraq.

Syria has angrily denied U.S. charges it harbored Saddam or members of his family or that it has any knowledge top former Iraqi leaders might have taken refuge in the neighboring nation during or since the U.S.-led invasion that toppled Saddam.

Officials told Reuters the "information, or perhaps disinformation," from Mahmud Tikriti had intensified the ongoing hunt for Saddam and the sons by U.S. Special Operations troops and paramilitary in-



AP

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, left, speaks with his son Qusai, right, as his presidential secretary Abid Hamid Mahmud al-Tikriti stands by, center, in Baghdad, Iraq, in this Jan. 6, 2003 file photo.

telligence agents in Iraq.

White House officials said on Friday it was unclear if the former Iraqi leader was alive or dead although other officials acknowledged there was growing evidence he might be alive.

"We know that this guy (Mahmud Tikriti) was his (Saddam's) shadow at one time. But who knows what's true and what's not here," one U.S. official said June 21.

Bush: Iranian nuke won't be tolerated

RICHARD BENEDETTO

USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — President Bush ratcheted up his rhetoric Wednesday against Iran, saying the world "will not tolerate" Tehran's development of a nuclear weapon.

The administration hasn't threatened military action if Iran pursues a nuclear weapons program.

But it is seeking to build an international coalition that could exert economic and political pressure on Iran to back down.

"The international community must come together to make it very clear to Iran that we will not tolerate construction of a nuclear weapon," Bush told reporters at the White House. "Iran would be dangerous if they have a nuclear weapon."

It was his strongest language to date about the threat such weapons could pose to Iran's neighbors, including Israel and Saudi Arabia.

Bush noted that he had raised the issue at a summit this month of the leading industrial-



AP

The Bush administration is hoping that diplomatic pressure will encourage Iran to rethink its nuclear program.

ized democracies and Russia.

"There was near-universal agreement that we all must work together to prevent Iran from developing a nuclear weapon," he said. But

Bush's efforts to get Russia to stop providing technical assistance to Iran's nuclear program have failed.

The president's words came on the heels of a report by Mohamed ElBaradei, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, that Tehran had not been forthcoming about its import of uranium and the construction of two nuclear reactors.

The agency's board of governors meets this week and is likely to cite Iran for violations of its obligations under the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty.

The Iranian government insists the nuclear activity is for the peaceful development of electrical energy, not weaponry. The White House is skeptical.

"We have grave concerns when a nation that is as awash in natural resources, such as Iran's oil and gas, why they would want to develop, as they claim for peaceful civilian purposes, nuclear energy," spokesman Ari Fleischer said.

Details emerge on Lynch convoy ambush

CNN

WASHINGTON — New details are emerging of the battle that led to the Iraqi capture of Pfc. Jessica Lynch and her comrades.

Mechanics from the 507th Maintenance Company — rather than trained front line soldiers — fought a fierce 90-minute firefight against Iraqi paramilitary and regular forces after getting lost in the Iraqi desert.

They tell of coming under fire from soldiers on rooftops near Nasiriya as their vehicles were hit by rocket-propelled grenades and some weapons were clogged with sand.

"It was Mogadishu," said one military source familiar with the reports from survivors, referring to a 1993 incident in the Somali capital when 18 U.S. Army Rangers were killed by a Somali mob while attempting to rescue comrades from two downed helicopters.

Lynch and 32 other soldiers got lost when their 18 vehicles lost touch with the 3rd Infantry Division's convoy of 8,000 in the drive from Kuwait to Baghdad, missing a crucial left turn south of Nasiriya, Defense Department sources told CNN.

As they realized their mistake and tried to find a safe route back to their comrades they came under intense Iraqi fire. Master Sgt. Robert Dowdy, the senior enlisted soldier with the group, took charge, urging the young soldiers to stay together, keep moving and fight.

Sources said that at some point the vehicle in which Lynch was riding broke down, and she and others got into a soft-top Humvee.

Lynch's friend, Pfc. Lori Piestewa was driving. Dowdy was in the front passenger seat.

It is believed Lynch was in the middle seat in the rear, between two other soldiers when a rocket-propelled grenade hit the Humvee,



CNN

An abandoned U.S. Army truck marks the spot where the 507th Maintenance Company was ambushed.

and Piestewa lost control, violently crashing into the back of another vehicle.

Dowdy was killed instantly and sources now say that Iraqi doctors have told them Piestewa, suffering serious injuries, was taken to the same hospital as Lynch but died shortly after her arrival there.

In debriefing sessions, soldiers involved in the battle said Lynch did not appear to have suffered gunshot or stab wounds, as was initially reported, and that her injuries were sustained in the crash.

Information from those sessions also indicates that at various points in the firefight all the soldiers tried to fight back, but several rifles, including Lynch's, were jammed by sand.

Iraqis against male soldiers frisking women

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD, Iraq — U.S. security concerns have clashed with Iraq's traditional culture in a potentially volatile flap over American men frisking Iraqi women.

The practice is not widespread, and the Americans say they use it only as a last resort. But tales of such incidents — and television footage of a male American soldier patting down a chador-clad Iraqi woman — have sparked outrage in Iraq.

The issue is being talked about throughout the country — in homes and cafes and during sermons by religious readers at Friday prayers.

"There's no doubt that unrelated men even touching Muslim women is not allowed in our religion," said Sheikh Muhammad Mahmoud al-Samarayee, a cleric at Baghdad's Imam al-Adham seminary.

"If they really want to respect the Muslim people, they have to use women soldiers to search women."

The U.S. military is engaged in a massive



AP

A young girl is checked by a female U.S. soldier in Baghdad, Iraq June 17.

campaign to track down insurgents who've been increasing their attacks on American soldiers. The troops are trying to carry out their mission without offending Muslim sensibilities or breaking the religious taboo on men touching unrelated women.

At the al-Rahman mosque in southern Iraq,

worshippers recently held a demonstration protesting alleged searches of Iraqi women by male soldiers. When asked about the issue, however, protesters admitted that they had never actually seen an American man patting down an Iraqi woman.

Responding to the concern, the U.S. Central Command issued a June 4 statement acknowledging the "cultural sensitivities" raised by frisking women for weapons.

"When female civilians must be searched, U.S. forces make every effort to have female service members conduct these searches," said the statement. "Although there are times when male service members are required to search female civilians, every effort is made to ensure these searches are conducted in a professional manner with dignity and respect for the individual being searched."

Outside Baghdad's convention center, Sgt. 1st Class James Williams of McCormick, S.C., said male soldiers use the backs of their hands in the rare event that they have to frisk female employees.

"It's done very professionally," he said.

Ariz. wildfire may take weeks to contain

ASSOCIATED PRESS

TUCSON — Firefighters moved through the charred, smoky streets of a mountaintop resort June 20 to protect what was left of a community decimated by a raging wildfire that reduced 250 homes to smoking rubble.

Heavy smoke hid the Summerhaven hamlet from observers flying overhead Friday, but parted occasionally to reveal a moonscape of blackened trees stripped of their branches. A cul-de-sac with homes burned to their foundations was visible from above.

A top fire official said that firefighters knew when they saw the flames that they had little chance of stopping them. Winds up to 60 mph drove the fire through dry pine country and up the streets of Summerhaven in about an hour Thursday.

“By the time this thing ignited, it was pretty much a foregone conclusion this thing was going to go where it wanted to go,” said Larry Humphrey, commander of the fire team battling the blaze on Mount Lemmon.

Fire crews are bracing for more destruction in the Summerhaven hamlet with forecasts calling for strong winds and dry conditions for the next several days. Up to 1,000 firefighters are expected to be battling the fire within a few days.

Air tankers were kept on the ground Friday afternoon because of high winds.

Humphrey said he expects the fire, which



AP

The Aspen fire blazes atop Mount Lemmon Thursday as seen from Oro Valley, Ariz.

grew from an estimated 465 acres Thursday to about 3,200 acres early Friday, to eventually burn tens of thousands of acres because there is no good place to stop it.

Crews were clearing vegetation from around a nearby observatory Friday, and were prepared to burn around the area if the fire approached.

The fire started Tuesday in the worst possible place — where the wind would take it right into town. Humphrey said it also struck at a time when the area was at its driest.

“We had predicted if we had a fire in the area that we would probably lose

Summerhaven,” he said. “So unfortunately our predictions were pretty good.”

Firefighters had tried to protect the homes along a trail about a mile away, but had to pull back when the intense blaze leaped the path.

“The problem is this is extremely difficult country with extremely heavy fuels, and without rain on this and with the way the winds and humidity are, they never stood a chance,” Humphrey said.

The cause was under investigation.

The blaze consumed pine trees ravaged by years of drought and an infestation of tree-killing bark beetles. It is one of several wildfires in Arizona, where fire officials are braced for another busy year after seeing 630,000 acres burned in 2002.

Pima County Supervisor Ray Carroll, whose district includes Mount Lemmon, said a trip up the mountain early Friday showed him “probably three or four foundations for every cabin left.”

Some luxury homes were burned to the ground, but their gates, hedges and mailboxes were untouched, Carroll said.

A convertible also stood untouched near a devastated house.

“Not a scratch, not a cinder,” Carroll said. “Didn’t even need a paint job. Doesn’t even need a car wash at this point. ... Explain that one to me.”

Freight train derails in Southern Calif.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

COMMERCE, Calif. — Crews worked June 21 to remove tons of lumber that demolished homes along a railroad line when more than two-dozen runaway freight cars came spilling off the tracks.

City officials said it was amazing no one was killed, and they questioned the decision to derail the runaway cars without warning local police, who could have evacuated the homes.

Thirteen people, including three children, were treated for minor injuries after the derailment June 20 shattered two homes and damaged at least two others in a blue-collar area east of Los Angeles. Twenty-eight



AP

Twenty-eight cars went off the track and piled up beneath a mound of lumber.

freight cars derailed, unleashing a blizzard of wood and fiberboard.

“We saw the train demolishing and splintering the house. You saw the power lines going down, the sparks. I was in shock,” said Jason Mendez, 34.

The decision to derail the runaway cars was defended by railroad officials, who said they were worried that if the train continued barreling toward Los Angeles, it could slam into passenger trains, cars or hazardous materials.

“We knew there were other trains downtown,” Union Pacific Railroad spokesman John Bromley said. “If it hit other trains or had gone into the downtown area, that was not something we could contemplate.”

But city officials and residents were upset that the railroad company had put lives in danger without warning.

“If they had thought about this, less than a mile away there is a railroad yard where there are no residents and they would not risk anyone’s life,” said Commerce Mayor Jesus M. Cervantez. “If they decided to do this intentionally, they should have at least informed the city.



Sports Highlights



WNBA

Tuesday

Seattle 61, Phoenix 60
 Detroit 87, Los Angeles 78
 NY Liberty 70, Sacramento 61
 Indiana 71, Charlotte 60
 Houston 77, Minnesota 68

Wednesday

Connecticut 70, Cleveland 57
 Sacramento 69, Washington 61

Thursday

Seattle 69, Los Angeles 67

Friday

Minnesota 72, Charlotte 76
 Cleveland 79, Washington 74
 Detroit 88, NY Liberty 83
 Indiana 84, Connecticut 74
 San Antonio 76, Houston 69

Saturday

Minnesota 66, Indiana 58
 Houston 63, Cleveland 62
 Los Angeles 54, Phoenix 48
 Sacramento 69, Seattle 64

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Wednesday

Toronto 6, Baltimore 2
 Cleveland 4, Detroit 1
 NY Yankees 1, Tampa Bay 0
 Chicago 3, Boston 1
 Kansas 8, Minnesota 6
 Oakland 4, Texas 3
 Seattle 2, Anaheim 0

Thursday

Cleveland 10, Detroit 3
 Tampa Bay vs. NY Yankees ppd
 Boston 4, Chicago 3
 Minnesota 16, Kansas 2
 Toronto 6, Baltimore 1
 Oakland 9, Texas 2
 Anaheim 2, Seattle 0

INTERLEAGUE

Friday

Chicago Sox 12, Cubs 3
 Toronto 8, Montreal 4
 Boston vs. Philadelphia ppd

Pittsburgh 5, Cleveland 4
 NY Yankees 5, NY Mets 0
 Atlanta 6, Baltimore 3
 Florida 3, Tampa Bay 1
 Milwaukee 3, Minnesota 2
 Houston 12, Texas 3
 Kansas 10, St. Louis 4
 Detroit 7, Colorado 5
 Oakland 5, San Francisco 3
 San Diego 5, Seattle 3
 Los Angeles 5, Anaheim 2

Saturday

Philadelphia 6, Boston 5
 Chicago Sox 7, Chicago 6
 NY Yankees vs. NY Mets ppd
 Los Angeles 4, Anaheim 2
 Florida 2, Tampa Bay 0
 Atlanta 10, Baltimore 2
 Milwaukee 8, Minnesota 1
 Montreal 8, Toronto 5
 Pittsburgh 7, Cleveland 6
 Colorado 9, Detroit 6
 Houston 9, Texas 5
 St. Louis 8, Kansas 1
 San Francisco 6, Oakland 4
 Seattle 4, San Diego 2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Wednesday

Pittsburgh 7, Montreal 3
 Pittsburgh 4, Montreal 3
 NY Mets 10, Florida 5
 Atlanta 6, Philadelphia 1
 Chicago Cubs 4, Cincinnati 1
 Arizona 2, Houston 1
 St. Louis 9, Milwaukee 1
 Colorado 5, San Diego 3
 Los Angeles 8, San Francisco 2

Thursday

Cincinnati 3, Chicago Cubs 1
 Montreal 5, Pittsburgh 2
 Philadelphia 3, Atlanta 2
 St. Louis 8, Milwaukee 4
 Florida 5, NY Mets 1
 Arizona 4, Houston 2
 Colorado 10, San Diego 5
 San Francisco 2, Los Angeles 0

Friday

Arizona 6, Cincinnati 5

Saturday

Arizona 5, Cincinnati 3

Lewis barely reigns

LOS ANGELES — Lennox Lewis, who was huffin' and puffin' all night long June 21, defeated Vitali Klitschko to retain the WBC heavyweight championship when the fight was stopped after six rounds.

The Russian challenger had a large cut over his left eye. The result was also something of a rarity.

Lewis became only the third champion 37 or older to successfully defend his title. George Foreman won a decision against Axel Schulz in 1995 at age 46.

Williams' career over?

CHICAGO — A source close to Jay Williams said the playing career of the Bulls guard has been jeopardized by injuries suffered when he crashed his motorcycle June 19. The anonymous source close to Williams also said the guard's life was not in danger. "The last thing on our minds right now is basketball and the foremost thought on our minds is that of Jay's health," Bulls general manager John Paxson said in a statement June 20.

Willis posts short victory

MIAMI — Dontrelle Willis freely admitted that Saturday was far from his sharpest outing of the season, but it was still good enough for the left-hander to win his sixth consecutive start.

They allowed only two hits as the Marlins beat the Devil Rays 2-0 in a game called after five innings because of rain. Tampa Bay sent pinch-hitter Jason Tyner to the plate to open the sixth inning as the rain intensified, but the delay was called after Willis' third pitch of the inning sailed to the backstop screen.

Jacobs defies age

STANFORD, Calif. — Regina Jacobs put on quite a show June 21 at the U.S. track and field championships, pulling away from long-time rival Suzy Favor Hamilton to win her 12th national title with a world-leading time in the 1,500 meters. Stacy Dragila and Kevin Toth also won national titles.

"It's awesome," Jacobs said of her dozen national titles. "I was very nervous today. I knew Suzy was in great shape."

Rain halts Buick Classic

HARRISON, New York — Following a second rain delay June 21, the third round of the Buick Classic will be completed June 22. After a 76-minute delay Saturday morning, golfers again moved into the clubhouse shortly after 1 p.m. due to lightning.

Briny Baird has played five holes and is at 11-under-par 154. Tiger Woods had a bogey and six pars in seven holes before play was suspended, leaving him six strokes behind Baird — 11 under through six holes on the Westchester Country Club course.

Tyson arrested

NEW YORK — Mike Tyson was arrested June 21 after a brawl with two men outside a Brooklyn hotel and was charged with assault and disorderly conduct, police said. The former heavyweight champion was treated for minor cuts after the other men apparently swung at him with a metal pole taken from the hotel lobby.

Tyson, 36, was charged with third-degree assault, a misdemeanor, in the 5:30 a.m. fight.